

**Appropriation: Land Acquisition and State Assistance****Mission Overview**

Land Acquisition and State Assistance contribute to several goals of the National Park Service. The Federal Land Acquisition activity directly supports the national park system in the following ways: 1) Natural and cultural resources and associated values are protected, restored, and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context; 2) The National Park Service contributes to knowledge about natural and cultural resources and associated values so that management decisions about resources and visitors are based on adequate scholarly and scientific information and 3) Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity, and quality of park facilities, services, and appropriate recreational opportunities. State Conservation Grants contribute to the goal "Natural and cultural resources are conserved through formal partnership programs." Land Acquisition and State Assistance directly supports the Department of the Interior Strategic Plan goals to "Protect the Nation's natural, cultural and heritage resources," and to "Provide recreation opportunities for America."

**Appropriation Overview**

The Land Acquisition and State Assistance appropriation uses funding derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to support NPS land acquisition activities and provide grants to States for the purchase of land for recreation activities. The appropriation is currently composed of four budget activities:

**Federal Land Acquisition Administration**

This activity provides for the administration of the acquisition of lands throughout the national park system in a responsible and accountable way, ensuring compliance with existing guidelines and laws. The acquisition of land may be through donation, exchange or purchase.

**Federal Land Acquisition**

This activity provides for the acquisition of land and interests in land to preserve and protect, for public use and enjoyment, the historic, scenic, natural, and recreational values of congressionally authorized areas within the national park system.

**State Conservation Grants Administration**

This activity provides for the administration of matching grants to States and through States to local governments, for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Further tasks include the provision of technical assistance to States in developing and updating of State-wide outdoor recreation plans. The National Park Service is proposing to transfer this function to the National Recreation and Preservation Appropriation's Grants Administration Activity.

**State Conservation Grants**

This activity provides matching grants to States and local units of government for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities that provide public access to lands, waters and other recreation resources. The grants provide incentives for continuing State planning efforts to address outdoor recreation needs and for greater commitments from State governments to conserve and improve recreation resources.